

**Traffic Safety Advisory Committee**  
**January 26, 2009**  
**Minutes**

Present: Bill Ruoff – Chairman  
Chief Fred Douglas  
Dana MacAllister  
Gil Archambault  
Dave Wheeler  
Mike Putnam, Board of Selectmen Representative

Absent: Richard Tortorelli  
Bill Parker

Kathryn Parenti, Recording Secretary

1. *Roll Call vote required by the BOS.*

**MINUTES:**

3. *Approval of minutes from January 5, 2009.*

B. Ruoff asked if there were any comments or questions with regard to the minutes; there were none so he asked for a motion to approve.

M. Putnam made the motion to approve the minutes as written.

F. Douglas seconded the motion.

All were in favor; none opposed.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

2. *Discussion: Phillips Way – letter from Ledgewood Condominium Association to change direction of one-way street (Forwarded from the Board of Selectmen).*

B. Ruoff asked if everyone had a chance to review all the information provided and to give their input regarding Phillip's Way.

G. Archambault stated he had been up to the site several times and saw that the area is not well designed. He noted, from the information packet, that a survey had been done in 2002 at the intersection of Tonella Road and Nashua Street was ranked as a high priority and would cost about \$165,000 to repair; he thought it would be much higher now. At that time, in 2002, it was shown that 19,000 cars passed the area around Powers Street and the number of accidents in that area was high and it would cost \$45,000 to repair. Today's discussion was about Phillip's Way. He had spoken with B. Ruoff and B. Parker who thought the cost to make Phillips Way a two - way road was between \$5,000 and \$10,000. He noted if this is submitted to the BOS, it would be spring 2010 before any money would be approved to go to this repair and it wouldn't take care of the immediate problem. He stated there were several things with this development that were never followed through on and some mistakes were made, primarily the lack of a second exit out of the development. His recommendation would

be to make the road a one-way in the other direction; his second recommendation was to make it a two-way road and the third recommendation would be to leave it as is.

D. Wheeler stated his concerns are still his original concerns with the condition of Prospect Street, especially in the winter. The turn is too sharp for two (2) vehicles to safely pass and the road grade is too steep. He recommended Phillip's Way remain the way it is.

D. MacAllister stated he had read all of the information provided and agreed there was a safety issue with Prospect Street. He agreed with D. Wheeler that Phillips Road should remain as it is.

M. Putnam agreed.

F. Douglas stated he had gone to Phillips Way on January 21, 2009 and parked on Phillips Way to monitor where vehicles went. He discovered people cut to the left instead of going around the hammerhead to the right. He noted the roadway is one (1) car width wide and not safe for any additional traffic. If they allow traffic to go out onto Prospect Street, it would be a safety issue and as safety is a priority, he recommended the road be left as it is.

G. Archambault, after listening to all the comments, felt that since the members of the Committee were more knowledgeable about this area, he was going to change his opinion to leaving Phillip's Way the way it is.

B. Ruoff noted B. Parker submitted a memo summarizing all of the information presented with regard to this location. From his comments, this project first came before the Planning Board in 2000 and at that time, the access to Prospect Street was to be gated. In recent discussions with B. Parker, it was noted the fire department did not want the access road barred, at that time. The current state of the road, one way in, is the result from a safety standpoint – emergency response wanted a second access and that's how it went through the Planning Board process. B. Ruoff stated he had gone up to the site and saw there was a turnaround in addition to the narrow strip of road and potentially thought the road direction could be reversed but after really looking at Prospect and Webster Streets, that would not be a good idea. The two (2) possible conclusions would be to leave the road as it is or close it to traffic by putting a bar across the road for emergency access only. This committee can't make that recommendation without input from emergency response. He recommended the committee submit B. Parker's five (5) recommendations to the BOS: *"1. That Phillip's Way not be modified to allow two-way traffic, 2. That Phillip's Way not be modified to allow one-way traffic from Phillip's Way to Prospect Street,"* He thought Prospect Street was too narrow and the turn too sharp, especially in winter, for the extra traffic. *"3. That the Board of Selectmen direct Town staff, the Oval Area Improvements Team, and the Town's downtown traffic projects engineering consulting firm, CLD, look in-depth at potential intersection and roadway solutions at Tonella Road and Nashua Street to help mitigate access concerns noted by the Ledgewood development (to be funded, if appropriate, by federal transportation funds)."* This is current in process in the Nashua Street improvements project. *"4. That the Board of Selectmen seek input from the emergency service departments relative to closing Phillip's Way to public traffic and have it be limited to emergency vehicle access only."* Input is needed from emergency services to see if they even want this closed off. *"5. That Tonella Road be striped according to the approved construction plans as soon as feasible for left-turns and right-turns from Tonella Road onto Nashua Street."* He noted the contractor who painted Tonella Road made a mistake and DPW burned off the paint but hadn't gotten around to repainting the turn lanes due to the early snow. Once it is warm enough, they will go out and repaint the lines correctly.

D. Wheeler noted there was not much room to make both turns there.

B. Ruoff stated there was just enough room for all the lanes. He voted to keep Phillip's Way the way it is. He noted he had K. Parenti write up a memo incorporating B. Parker's recommendations. He made copies for all to see if they agreed with the comments.

D. Wheeler noted that intersection may qualify for CMAC funds (congestion mitigation and air quality funds). If the town wants that money, they should put in the request to NRPC right away as it may take six (6) to ten (10) years to get the funds.

B. Ruoff acknowledged that the Committee voted unanimously to keep Phillip's Way as it is. He asked if there was a motion to approve the memo to be submitted to the BOS.

M. Putnam made the motion to approve the memo; D. Wheeler seconded the motion. All were in favor.

F. Douglas asked who was responsible for notifying the Ledgewood residents of this outcome.

B. Ruoff stated he would work with K. Parenti submit the memo to the BOS with a cover letter.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

5. *Unevenly painted lines near the Nashua and School Street intersection.*

B. Ruoff asked G. Archambault to give him a call to go out to this location and look at the lining of the road.

G. Archambault stated he would and in addition, they should go out to look at the stop sign on Savage Road as well.

B. Ruoff asked if there was a motion to adjourn.

M. Putnam made the motion to adjourn the meeting.

G. Archambault seconded.

All were in favor.